

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00

AGR-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /079 W

----- 021785

R 251506Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4722

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT ALSO PASS AID/W

ROME FOR FOODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID MR

SUBJECT: GIRM ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS OF WESTERN SAHARA

1. WHEN FFPO MET WITH GIRM DROUGHT COORDINATOR
(DEFENSE MINISTER) ON 24 NOVEMBER, MINISTER SAID HE HAD JUST
MADE REQUEST TO WFP REP FOR 10,000 TONS FOOD ON URGENT
BASIS. MINISTER CONTINUED THAT, WHILE MUCH OF THIS FOOD IS
NEEDED FOR MAURITANIAN DROUGHT REFUGEES IN NORTH, REST WOULD
BE USED FOR FEEDING WESTERN SAHARANS. HE SAID HE
HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM NOUADHIBOU THAT THEIR
EMERGENCY FOOD STOCKS EXHAUSTED AND THAT GIRM NOW FEEDING
WESTERN SAHARANS. WHEN ASKED IF FOOD SUPPLIES ARE FOR
SAHARANS WHO HAD CROSSED INTO MAURITANIA OR STILL
IN WESTERN SAHARA, MINISTER SAID HE IS NOT CERTAIN
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BUT THAT HE BELIEVED IT IS BOTH. HE CONTINUED THAT

SPANISH HAD FORMERLY BEEN PROVIDING FOOD TO RESIDENTS IN SOUTH OF SAHARA BUT THIS HAS NOW STOPPED SO GIRM HAD TO FILL GAP. HE SAID HE ORDERED LAST EMERGENCY FOOD STOCKS (3,000 TONS) AT NOUAKCHOTT WHARF BE SENT NOUADHIBOU.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND OCCASION WITHIN PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS WHERE IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT GIRM IS THINKING IN TERMS OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN SAHARANS. EXTENT TO WHICH GIRM CAN ACTUALLY PROVIDE HELP IS UNCLEAR. MAURITANIAN WAS NAMED DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF SAHARA ON NOVEMBER 23 (NOUAKCHOTT 2406). SITUATION ALONG SAHARAN-MAURITANIAN FRONTIER REMAINS CONFUSED (NOUAKCHOTT 2381). IF POLI-SARIO IS STILL IN CONTROL OF LA GUERA, SMALL SAHARAN TOWN TEN KILOMETERS ACROSS CAP BLAN PENINSULA FROM NOUADHIBOU. WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FOOD AID, WE DOUBT GIRM WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER MUCH ASSISTANCE AT LEAST UNTIL (AND IF) SOUTHERN PART OF WESTERN SAHARA IS INCORPORATED INTO MAURITANIA SOME TIME AFTER FEBRUARY 28. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT GIRM WILL DIRECT REQUESTS TO USG IN COMING MONTHS FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF ASSISTANCE TO BE USED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY FORMER OR PRESENT RESIDENTS OF WESTERN SAHARA.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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Film Number: D750411-0202
From: NOUAKCHOTT
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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